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# Adult Education

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Adult education provides an opportunity for mature students to achieve education levels equivalent to those of high school graduates.

## **Who are Adult Education students?**

More than 80,000 students are enrolled in Michigan adult education programs each year. While adult students average 30 years of age, a student must be older than 16 years of age with education competencies below the level of high school graduates. Detailed eligibility requirements differ by program type and in some cases, high school graduates may qualify due to poor reading or lack of English language skills. For example, General Educational Development (GED) students could be senior citizens, recent immigrants, high school dropouts, or high school graduates without adequate skills. The educational goals of adult education students include achieving a personal goal, learning to read, getting a better job, gaining access to postsecondary education, setting a good example for their children, gaining citizenship, or other objectives.

## **What do Adult Education students learn?**

Adult education instruction is tailored to meet the individual needs of adult students. Standardized tests are used to identify the student's existing skill levels, assign appropriate instruction for that level, and assess academic gains after instruction. Adult education offerings consist of the following five components:

- *High School Completion:* Instruction designed to fulfill the requirements for a high school diploma.
- *GED Test Preparation:* Instruction in language arts, math, social studies, science, and writing to enable successful completion of the GED test.
- *Adult Literacy:* Instruction in reading, English, language arts, math and civics for adults. The most basic literacy courses teach adults to read.
- *English as a Second Language:* Instruction in reading, speaking, writing, and understanding the English language.
- *Labor Employment Related/Employer Workforce Readiness:* Instruction in job- or employment-related mathematics, reading, and communication skills. Instruction may be "applied," which means that the academic material is directly related to specific job requirements.

## **How do I find an Adult Education program?**

More than 250 adult education programs are located throughout Michigan. A network of local literacy councils train volunteers to mentor adults who need help with basic literacy skills. Approximately 50% of Michigan's local public school systems operate an Adult Education program. Additionally, some intermediate school districts, community colleges, and nonprofit organizations offer adult education services. For information about local adult education programs, contact your local Michigan Works! Service Center or call the DLEG Adult Education Unit at (517) 373-8800.